

Deaths due to drinking of contaminated water

†1913. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of villages in India which don't have potable water facility so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that various kind of diseases erupt due to use of filthy/contaminated water and as a result thereof thousand of people die every year; and

(c) if so, year-wise and State-wise details of people who died due to waterborne diseases during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per information received from the States as on 1.4.2001, 1.40 per cent of the total rural habitations are not covered with potable water facility, and 11.71 per cent habitations are partially covered. Remaining 86.89 per cent of the total rural habitations are reported by the State Governments to have been fully covered with potable water facility.

(b) and (c) Many diseases are caused by the use of filthy/contaminated water. Information regarding year-wise and State-wise details of people died due to such diseases caused by the use of filthy/contaminated water have not been received.

Panchayat's providing drinking water to villages

1914. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "The water power of the panchayat" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 18th May, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that people's participation in the plan made

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it possible for all the villages in the region to get drinking water at home with some contribution; and

(c) if so, whether Government after analyzing the success would propagate such a plan to other panchayats throughout the country for making available drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is conceptually true in respect of the Olavanna Gram Panchayat in Kerala.

(c) The sector reform projects on pilot basis are being implemented in identified pilot districts in 26 States. These projects envisage to institutionalise the concept of Community participation and demand responsive approach in rural drinking water sector, wherein the rural beneficiaries would plan, sanction, partially fund, implement, manage, operate and maintain the water supply schemes of their choice, themselves.

Empowering Women

1915. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "Empowering women" appearing in the Hindu dated 12th June, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mahila Gram Pradhan are still influenced by male relatives; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb this practice and for effective empowerment of women?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has been, *inter alia*, reported that a recent Lucknow study has confirmed that mahila pradhans are still ruled by